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Weather Forecast for Thursday.

Washington, April 20.—For Oklahoma and Indian Territory and Kansas: Partly cloudy weather; temperature 60 to 70.

For Missouri: Fair and warmer; winds becoming westerly.

For Nebraska: Fair; warmer in eastern portion; southerly winds.

IMPATIENT FOR ACTION.

Now that the die has been cast and hope of a peaceful adjustment with Spain has practically been dispelled, the people of the United States are impatient for the activities of war. Even those who were most conservative and who have had greatest confidence in peace policies are gratified by the energetic preparations making to strike an immediate and decisive blow.

The period of suspense has been long and exacting. The processes of diplomacy have been necessarily slow; yet only unreasonable jingoes have protested against the time employed in treating with Spain. None of this time was wasted; our preparations for possible war went vigorously on.

But whatever differences of opinion have existed, they are now things of the past. The country to-day presents a unity in which there is invincible strength. The time for aggression having come, even those most sensitive to the horrors of war are ready for the worst that the struggle has in store for them.

The president doubtless shares this popular feeling. He has maintained his composure under the most trying circumstances. He has proceeded logically while he has made sure of his ground and his wisdom has been vindicated. War and diplomacy are two different things, but the president will doubtless prove himself as great a commander as he has been a diplomat. When hostilities begin, the president will show the country both that he is prepared for war and that he knows how to prosecute it. In his efforts to make the struggle brief and decisive, he will have the satisfaction of knowing that he did all that in honor could be done to avert the strife.

MINISTER BERNABE.

Senor Polo y Bernabe, the Spanish minister, who asked for his passports yesterday, has conducted himself in such a way as to win the respect of the people of the United States. Considering the popular resentment toward Spain during Senor Polo's brief term of office, this is a high compliment, but none too high. The Spanish minister has departed himself with diplomatic dignity. He has observed the customary courtesies of diplomatic service, and when he has spoken at all he has displayed all the breadth and candor that could be expected from a Spanish representative.

The esteemed Washington Post rises to inquire why this great country does not have a national air, and to voice its yearning for "something simple, stirring, bold—a swing, a dash, a clear, penetrating clarion note that rings like a wild bell in the night and turns men pale with fervor. Why?" It inquires, "must we content ourselves with tepid messes borrowed from abroad?" The question is an important one, and as it is likely to be asked often during the stirring times just ahead, it is well to give it an early answer.

Even though, as Lowell imagines, "the fair of a monkey whose holt chance to fall drawn the very out in a prehensile tail," demand does not always create supply. Demand things can always be had by him who will pay the price; machines may be built to order. But live things, be they lambs, lobsters or lyrics, can only be obtained by those who are ready to comply with their life conditions. Important among these conditions is time.

A twenty-story office building may be put up in six months, but it still takes two years to produce a mature goose, just as it used to in the days of matches, apple jack and real colonial architecture.

Now a great song is a living thing, and to get it we must comply with the necessary conditions of its life. There may be much of beauty in a land which should inspire song, but it takes generations to produce a singing thrush, "with wild voice pealing up to the sunny sky." Great national songs have been children of the old age of civilization; witness the Marseillaise, and the national anthems of Germany, Sweden and Wales. Their sparkle is born in the "dear days of the old time of national life. We may bottle new wine, and charge it with carbonic acid, but it is not the same.

We have a national life that ought to inspire a national song; granted. But it can do this only when it finds a man awake to the wonder and the promise of it, who has "the singing throat," trained in the marriage of strong Saxons words, knowing the music of speech as a lover knows the voice of her he loves. To produce a lark's song there must be two things—the sunrise and the lark. We have the sunrise, where is the lark?

THE ULTIMATUM.

The last act of diplomacy on the part of the United States toward Spain has been performed. President McKinley's ultimatum has been sent to Madrid. Although not yet made public, the character and significance of this final demand upon Spain are not in doubt, for they must conform to the resolution passed by congress and signed by the president.

If war has seemed probable before, it certainly seems inevitable now. Our government is absolutely committed. The tone of the Spanish authorities, especially as conveyed in the address of Premier Sa-

gasta and the queen regent, is unmistakably warlike. Spain still has many agencies employed in the scheme for European intervention, but she can no longer reasonably expect assistance from those sources.

The only hope now remaining, and that is a vague one indeed, is that the influence of the pope may be sufficient to keep down a revolution in Spain in case Cuba is relinquished. If the prayer of the pontiff should be regarded as security against the overthrow of the dynasty, Spain might, at the last moment, recognize the independence of Cuba.

And this war is to be in spite of the modern sentiment against armed hostility, in spite of the earnest efforts of both governments to settle the controversy by peaceful negotiation. The difficulty in the whole procedure has been the unwieldy character of the Spanish people. Spain is divided by ambitious factions, inspired by false pride, deficient in civilization, and ignorant of her own limitations and the resources of other powers. About 70 per cent of the Spanish population is illiterate. In this acute crisis, the literate are at the mercy of the ignorant.

MEXICO WANTS CUBA.

It is not only the European newspapers that persist in expressing a belief that the ultimate purpose of the United States is to annex Cuba. We quote further on from a Mexican paper, which, being printed in English and owned by American citizens who are temporary sojourners in Mexico, ought to realize the binding force and honorable intent of an act of congress. This paper is the Herald, published at the City of Mexico by a manager who claims his permanent residence in Topeka and an editor who subscribes himself as retaining his citizenship in Boston. It is the opinion of the Herald that Cuba cannot exist as an independent republic, for the reason that an irrepressible conflict is bound to ensue between the whites and blacks. While it is ready to admit that the government is at present sincere in declaring for Cuban independence it sees a time in the very near future when a clamor will arise throughout all the United States for the annexation of the island—this time being fixed by the first visible signs that the Cubans are unable to govern themselves. In response to this clamor, says the Herald, the United States will annex the island and the great American republic will then have justified the expectations and suspicions of every unbiased student of the situation.

"But what," continues the Herald, "will be the effect on Latin America of a fresh acquisition of territory to the south by the great republic which has, in times past, displayed an aggressive tendency; indeed, has absorbed a full half of Mexico, the northernmost outpost of Latin America? Dissatisfied people must admit that a fresh absorption of territory will serve to confirm the Latin-American nations in the belief that the Monroe doctrine is but a cover for the advance, equatorial, of the American people. Many of the leading men of Latin America view with apprehension the growth of the colossus of the North, and it is this instinctive dread of Anglo-Saxon domination that, at this moment, inclines intelligent men, not only in Mexico, but in Central and South America, to desire that Spain may, in some way, retain Cuba. Our argument that Latin-Americans will resent the further acquisition of Southern territory by the United States is based on observation and information. There is plenty of room for the American people to expand; they can, in time, bring about the peaceful acquisition of Canada; they can take Hawaii and Samoa, and, as Senator Lodge has suggested, acquire trading posts on the coast of China. They do not need it (it would be embarrassing for them) to move southward, and it would certainly be impolitic to arouse the ill will of Latin America."

And then the Herald advances a remarkable proposition in solution of the difficulties which it has dreamed or invented—a proposition, by the way, so refreshingly impudent that it becomes positively artistic. It proposes that Mexico shall be allowed to annex Cuba after the United States has whipped Spain out, and declares that blood, speech, religion and all the traditions of the two peoples point to this procedure as the only one that promises a happy and peaceful future for the war-wrecked island. It believes also that the Cubans would rather join Mexico than the United States, and suggests that if they will make the motion Mexico will meet them half way.

It is to be hoped that the Herald will not succeed in establishing in the Mexican mind the ridiculous notion that the United States is going to war for the purpose of adding territory to the Mexican republic, for the disappointment is likely to prove straining to neighborly feelings. At this date the American people are of one mind upon the proposition that Cuba is to become a free and independent republic, and they are not contemplating that failure in self-government which seems so certain to this Mexican advocate. But it is just as well for Mexico to take notice that if the Cubans fall in securing peace and happiness under a government of their own, the United States will endeavor to solve that problem for them, just as it is solving the problem of their deliverance from Spanish misrule. In the meantime if Mexico and the other Latin-American countries are not satisfied with either our procedure or the outlook, they might experiment a little on their own account with Porto Rico, which lies so invitingly before them. Let them drive the Spaniards out of that island and amalgamate a population that "by blood, speech, religion and all the traditions" is so closely akin to them. A favorite Kansas poet once wrote:

"Souls of fire may dare the fire,
May aspire to rule the fire;
But the element consumes
Any sucker who presumes."

The fact that the air of "America" is the same as that of "God Save the Queen" doesn't lessen the song's popularity with theater audiences. They cheer it all the more loudly.

"Pig" is the opprobrious epithet that Spaniards apply to the American. They will soon discover that pig sticking is a more dangerous employment than bull fighting.

Friends of the administration cannot deny that congress made all the big speeches, while the president was doing nothing more than preparing the country for war.

Governor Leedy says the president ought to have declared war twelve months ago. Perhaps the president feared that if he increased the army it might be used to

intimidate labor. Has Governor Leedy thought of that?

Texas promises to take care of the Spaniards in Mexico who attempt to make trouble on the border. It is believed this matter can safely be left with Texas.

The Hon. Abdul Hamid will doubtless remark a wide difference between the European ultimatum and the American variety. The latter ultimates.

Austria would like to help Spain, but there are several reasons why she cannot. One is the United States, and the others are big European powers.

Mrs. Lease declares that hostilities cannot begin too early to suit her. The declaration does not surprise Mr. Lease at all.

By acting promptly the Spanish navy will probably be able to capture the Cape Verde Islands.

Good-bye, Senor Polo. Come again some time when you have longer to stay.

NOTES AND NOTIONS.

Next June is to be celebrated the semi-centennial of American spiritualism, which seems willing to date its birth from the "Rochester knockings" of the Fox sisters. There are a great many sane and serious people who hold open in their judgments a little space for the possible demonstration of the presence of the spirits of the departed and of communication with them, but this can hardly be said to be the character of those who pin their faith to knockings. Yet their number is large, and the extent of their organization in America considerable. Mr. E. S. Martin observes that "to the average lay observer spiritualism seems a barren, disappointing, misleading and demoralizing affair," and his remark probably expresses the general opinion.

The competitive debate between the representatives of the University of Missouri and those of the University of Kansas seems to have been a walkway for the former. They are reported to have discussed the income tax, and it is said that Judge Foster, who presided, received a considerable flood of light on the subject. According to one who heard the performance, the Kansas men suffered from an impression that it was a political campaign in which they were engaged, while the Missouri boys made no pretensions to oratory in the common misconception of the term, but buckled right down to cold reasoning and plain, straightforward presentation of their arguments. If colleges would give about one-half the attention now expended on athletics, it might be better for the young people.

Another Kansas man is coming to the fore in the musical world. He is now director of the leading English orchestra and is becoming known as a composer. Many years ago Miss Persis Bell, of Wichita, was a pupil under Campanari and he fell in love with her. He married her and she came to Kansas with him to come to Wichita to live. There he opened a conservatory, but of course the town was too small to sustain him and in time he drifted back to Italy and from there he came back to America. He is now in possession of seven little chickens, abandoned by their mother, and is taking care of them. The chickens follow the plow all day and are fully satisfied with the adoption.

A grizzled old veteran in Japan applied to Captain Spears, of Company G, as a candidate for enlistment. He was told that on account of his age he was ineligible, whereupon he became more patriotic than ever and declared that he would go to war anyway; he had received \$3,000 as back pension money, he said, and he would spend it all in trying to get to the front and obtain a chance to whip a few Spaniards.

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"I just met the occasion of my creating that indebtedness, for if I mistake not you borrowed from him at the same time, along with about thirty of the other fellows. The editorial association had given \$25 each to the fund, and I, too, had given \$25. I lasted until we reached St. Louis, and I was so ashamed to borrow that I actually went one day without grub. To give in, however, and tackled the dear old man, and he said to me, 'John, I told him \$2 would see me home, and he handed it over with the suggestion that perhaps I had better take five. I don't think I am dishonest, and I don't know how I failed to pay him. I never did, but I never did. When I thought of it I never had the money, and when I had the money I never thought of it.'"

"By the way, I suppose you have almost forgotten me now, but I have been a grown-up child on that excursion or the one next year when we went to Mackinac that you and Professor W. H. Carruth were sparking the girls that day. I remember, too, how Billy Jenkins had his heart broken through a purchase of a Martin monument association. So far it has raised just \$2."

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On leaving for his first voyage across the ocean a Beloit man agreed to write to his home paper about the sights that impressed him most. Here is his first letter: "As we plumed through billow after bill-

low, the good ship riding over an arch of blue which seemed to extend into infinity, the splendor and majesty of it all came to my heart like a whisper from God and I could not help but exclaim, 'What a magnificent sight! Now, isn't that Kansas all over for you?'

Brace of war items from the redoubtable Colonel Major Jett. The straight truths were told last week on some people, and we have been treated with a good deal of grace. Now, isn't that Kansas all over for you? The Topeka is named through the efforts of Senator Baker and Charles Curtis, and Kans. will send more men to war than is necessary. She will come up with her per capita share of men no matter how dark the hour.

Dr. Countermine, the Presbyterian pastor at Topeka, preached in Atchison last Sabbath, and the Champion says he greatly surprised a number in his congregation by declaring that the Westminster catechism was "a good deal of nonsense." He said further that if a convert believed in the Lord Jesus Christ he would admit him into his church without a question as to his creed.

Some people have a mighty curious idea of the law. Two or three friends were at the station at Topeka one day other day to a house where a man had committed suicide by hanging. Instead of cutting the man down they sent for the coroner. In the course of ten minutes a police sergeant happened along who once cut the man down, and a little later a doctor arrived and endeavored to resuscitate the body. At the inquest both the doctor and the sergeant testified that the man had been hanged by a rope. When asked why they had left the man hanging the firemen said they thought he was dead, or dying, and that it would be unlawful for them to touch the body before the coroner came.

The Galena Republican gives a very amusing account of a fight which took place down here in the town of Galena. A lot of fellows had procured a keg of beer and were drinking it behind an old building. A stranger came along and said: "I am a Spanish spy and I just stopped to see what you fellows thought of the Spaniards." The crowd jumped on him in a moment and beat him up until his wife couldn't have recognized him. The Republican says the man was joking, but he didn't have time to say so before the Jan came.

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would require. Well, she is married now and the mother of a 17-year-old boy who looks mightily like me. But this is neither a confession nor a history, so good-bye, but be sure and tell me about the Martin fund."

MISSOURI POINTS.

Carrollton's handsome new \$3,000 opera house will be thrown open to the public Friday night, with Clay Clement's company in "The New Dominion" as the dedicatory attraction.

Although three or four days overdue the expected has finally happened. A gubernatorial boom for Dr. Kirschner, the new Democratic mayor of St. Joseph, has been launched by the Gazette.

Trenton will watch with particular interest the part taken by General Copping's command in the coming war with Spain. Major Crowder, of the general's staff, claims that city as his home.

The outlook for Cole county rabbits and members of the next legislature is a gloomy one. The butchers' organization in Jefferson City has announced an increase of 172 cents a pound in the price of beef steak.

Trenton looks forward with indifference to the approach of the heated term. Ice there is to sell as usual all summer, instead of at apothecaries' weight and prices, as seems likely to be the case in Kansas City.

A story credited to the Post-Dispatch is to the effect that Dr. Coombs is soon to retire from the superintendency of the Fulton insane asylum, giving place to Dr. Brady, a brother of "St. Martin How," the St. Louis election commissioner.

Colonel Tom Knap, of Chillicothe, who drew a United States commissionship in the Indian Territory instead of the judgeship he was after, has gone down there to look the ground over and satisfy himself as to whether or not the job, with its \$3,000 and fees, is worth having.

Colonel Henry Newman, of Randolph county, is visiting the various camps throughout the state, recruiting veterans with the purpose of learning how many of the old warriors will enlist under Old Glory for the war with Spain. He believes every camp in Missouri can be depended upon for a contribution.

The verdict of acquittal in the murder case against John Joyce for having killed Montgomery, the alleged despoiler of his property, seems to be a very peculiar one. Maryville. The people, the Record says, with few exceptions, are of the same opinion as the jury, and even the prosecution seemingly is not surprised at the result.

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ties of the rebellion, and has attained his present rank after twenty-nine years of sustained service in the navy.

Both these men, competent as they are, are not likely to prove indispensable. Through the various ranks of commodore, captain, commander and lieutenant commander there are hundreds of good men who are capable of high commands—men of broad experience, who have an ample understanding of their business and any amount of courage. The nation has abundant justification for giving its complete confidence to the American navy.

American Flour in Siberia.

From the New York Press.

There has been much dispute, in which both sides quoted apparently good authority, as to whether the completion of the trans-Siberian railway would result in the export of Siberian grain from or to the port of American flour into Vladivostok. The road is not completed, but the imports of American flour have begun. Two ships sailing from San Francisco last Monday had cargoes of this product valued at \$1,800. More ships, it is said, are to follow.

It is interesting to note that the market for flour is along the line of the railroad now being built from Vladivostok to meet the line in construction from the West. This does not settle the interesting question. The supposed Siberian flour is far south and west of this northern port, and the stubble land, estimated at 1,000 miles, between the undeveloped ends of the road. Hence transportation across the Pacific may well be cheaper and quicker than from the Russian interior.

But it is at least encouraging that the American product has got such a long start. With the cheapness of water carriage and the marvelous economies of American milling plants, the country is able to extend it and to maintain it for a long time. There is a great deal in being first. People like to eat, drink and wear the things to which they have been accustomed. Hence the physical energy of British goods in many quarters of the world against German persistence and American ingenuity.

Farm Work for Imbeciles.

From the Chicago Times-Herald.

The state of Ohio has decided to inaugurate a new experiment in the treatment of imbeciles. Hitherto these weak-minded and unfortunate have been housed in great asylums, where under the constant care of trained attendants they have received elementary classroom instruction. While this system developed the intellectual resources of the imbecile, weak and feeble as they were, there was no opportunity to build up the physical energy of the imbecile, and the result was a large number of cottages, each in charge of a competent attendant. It is proposed to develop the minds of the members of the colony by classroom work and their bodies by outdoor exercise in practical farming. They will thus have the same mental stimulus as before and will also have the advantage of pure air, physical exercise and the healthful incentive of sustained work along practical lines. The result of the experiment will be watched with interest.

British Friendliness to America.

From the Chicago News.

The action of Great Britain in deciding to treat coal as contraband of war is likely to prove of substantial assistance to the United States in its expected war with Spain. It is in line with the marked friendliness of the British people for this country which has been manifested in numerous ways of late. The sentiment of the British press and the expressions of British citizens have been alike cordial to every regard to Cuba.

The friendliness of Great Britain at this time is cause for gratification, though of course this country will not care to make use of that friendliness for purposes of defense or offensive alliance of any kind. There is only one form of alliance which this country should seek with Great Britain or any other European nation, and that is an alliance for peace and the addition of difficulties by arbitration. The friendly attitude of the British people and the people of Great Britain toward the United States in the present emergency should do much to pave the way for a peace treaty between the two countries similar to that rejected by the national senate not long ago.

The People Like the Idea.

From the Globe-Democrat.

The popular idea grows. Papers in all parts of the country favor it. The government of the country favors it. The government will have to borrow large sums of money if war takes place. It will have to be a heavy borrower even if the increased taxation which the members of the ways and means committee have been considering should be imposed immediately. No possible increase in revenue could be more easily obtained than the government's needs while the war lasts, or bring it in quick enough. Large loans will have to be made, and some of the bonds which the government will